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**Bloomberg
Environment**

**ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY
REPORT**

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Highlights

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: THIS WEEK AT EPA

[EPA Rule Keeping Scientists Off Boards Challenged in Court Again](#)

By Porter Wells

An EPA policy that keeps agency grantees off of scientific advisory boards is again being challenged in court.

[Wheeler Seeks to Make Amends with EPA's Science Advisers \(1\)](#)

By Sylvia Carignan

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler wants to move "as quickly as possible" to patch up the agency's relationship with its scientific advisers by asking for their feedback sooner in the regulatory process, he said June 5.

[EPA May Sideline Scientists in Changes to Cost-Benefit Analysis](#)

By Amena H. Saiyid

The EPA doesn't plan to ask its scientific advisers to review changes to how it justifies the need for major air regulations, which former agency employees and environmental groups say could result in weaker public health protections.

EPA Science Advisers Punt on Pollution Rule Costs, Benefits

By Abby Smith

The EPA's science advisers are postponing for now a project considering how the agency should weigh secondary health benefits of its pollution controls.

THIS WEEK IN AIR, WATER, AND WASTE

White House Nixes Carmaker Plea for California Pact on Emissions

By Chester Dawson and Jennifer A. Dlouhy

The White House is rejecting a bid from domestic and foreign automakers to restart talks with California over vehicle emission regulations.

EPA Completes Work on New Lead Rules, White House Reviewing

By David Schultz

The Environmental Protection Agency has sent its new regulations on lead in drinking water to the White House for final review, a milestone the agency has never reached before during the nearly eight years it's been struggling to overhaul these regulations.

EPA On Track to Finalize Power Plant Pollution Rule: Wheeler

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy (Bloomberg News) and Abby Smith (Bloomberg Environment)

The EPA plans to finalize a rule governing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants this month, Administrator Andrew Wheeler said June 3.

EPA Awards Larger Brownfield Grants to Smaller Communities

By Sylvia Carignan

The size of the average EPA grant to address a contaminated or abandoned property has almost doubled, according to new agency data.

Ohio River Compact Gives States Room on Pollution Oversight (1)

By Alex Ebert

Mandatory water quality standards for the Ohio River, one of America's most industrial waterways, have been stripped from a regional compact as states voted to give themselves more discretion in policing industrial pollution.

Washington Sues EPA Over Lowered Water Quality Standards

By Porter Wells

Washington State isn't happy with a recent EPA decision to revise the state's water quality standards to make them less protective, and has let the agency know by way of a lawsuit.

Big Sugar Sued Over Fires in Florida's Sugar Cane Fields (1)

By Jennifer Kay

Big Sugar is being sued for health problems that environmental advocates have blamed on the annual burning of Florida's sugar cane fields.

THIS WEEK IN CHEMICALS

Coal Processing Chemical May Harm Fetuses, Federal Study Finds

By Pat Rizzuto

The coal processing chemical that spilled into West Virginia's Elk River in 2014, cutting off drinking water for thousands of local residents, may harm the development of fetuses, according to a newly released federal study on test animals.

FDA Getting Mixed Results on Nonstick Chemicals in Food (1)

By David Schultz

Scientists with the FDA are examining different food items to see their content of a potentially toxic nonstick chemical, according to information the agency plans to release next week.

States Worry Dicamba Data Falling on Deaf Ears at EPA (1)

By Adam Allington

State pesticide regulators are frustrated that much of the data they gave to the EPA wasn't incorporated into new labels for the herbicide dicamba that has caused damage from drifting onto neighboring soybean and other fields.

Companies Team Up as EPA Steps Up Chemicals Scrutiny

By Pat Rizzuto

Chemical makers are forming groups to share EPA fees or gauge how best to submit information to the agency as it decides by December which chemicals to pick for possible regulation.

Cabinet Heads, White House Gather on Pesticide Regulation Revamp

By Maya Goldman

A group of agency heads and White House officials emphasized making the pesticide consultation process easier for farmers and other agricultural workers, during an inaugural working group meeting June 6.

EPA's Top Chemicals Attorney Joins Wiley Rein

By Pat Rizzuto

Erik C. Baptist, who served as the top attorney in the EPA's chemicals office during the Trump administration, has joined the law firm Wiley Rein LLP.

Colorado Bans Use of PFAS Chemicals in Fire Training

By Tripp Baltz

Colorado is banning so-called "forever" chemicals used in firefighting exercises and which have been shown to cause harmful human health effects.

Canada Considers Near-Total Ban on Chlorpyrifos Pesticide

By James Munson

Canada is considering a near-total ban on agricultural uses of chlorpyrifos, one of the most widely used insecticides in the country.

THIS WEEK IN NATURAL RESOURCES

Moving Land Agency Out West Could Benefit Industry, States

By Bobby Magill and Stephen Lee

Public lands totaling about one-tenth of U.S. area would be more subject to the whims of Washington politics and fossil-fuel interests if the Bureau of Land Management headquarters are moved to a Western state, according to former agency officials and conservation groups.

Trump Pick to Run National Parks Says He'd Consider Climate Science

By Stephen Lee

The Trump administration's pick to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service told senators June 4 that he would include the science of climate change in his decisions—with some caveats.

Interior Backs Uranium Mining Effort in Grand Canyon Area

By Stephen Lee

A Trump administration official pushed back June 5 against a Democratic effort to permanently ban uranium mining near the Grand Canyon.

Park Official Violated Procurement Regulations to Buy Art

By Bobby Magill

An unidentified National Park Service official participated in buying a \$39,000 painting for a national park in a scheme that helped the artist avoid a federal tax garnishment, an Interior Department inspector general report released June 7 found.

Future of \$1.9 Billion Arizona Copper Mine Is in Judge's Hands

By Stephen Lee

A showdown between environmentalists and a Canadian mining company is coming to a head in Arizona, with both sides awaiting a judge's ruling on whether the giant Rosemont copper mine outside Tucson can go forward.

New York Extends Boat Washing Program to Fight Invasive Species

By Keshia Clukey

New York state lawmakers extended a voluntary boat washing program for another year, as they decide whether to make it permanent and mandatory in a bid to stop the spread of invasive species.

THIS WEEK'S CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS

Kids' Climate Claims 'Compelling' But Court Queries Own Role (2)

By Abby Smith

Federal appeals court judges may agree with a group of kids that the government hasn't done enough to address climate change, but they're not sure if the courts can step in to force broad action.

Carbon Tax Is Tough Sell for Climate-Friendly Republicans

By Tiffany Stecker

All eyes are on Utah Republican Sen. Mitt Romney to lend support to a political third rail for his party: a nationwide tax on carbon.

House Passes Bills to Spur Research on Oceans and Climate (1)

By David Schultz

The House on June 5 passed a quartet of bills meant to kick-start additional research into ocean acidification, one of the many side effects of a rapidly changing climate.

Ocean Changes Inspire Bold Climate Push From Oregon's Bonamici

By Maya Goldman

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.) has already observed damaging environmental changes at home—like the change in seawater chemistry that is harming her state's shellfish industry.

House Democrat Wants One-Stop Climate Shop for Spy Agencies (1)

By Tiffany Stecker

Rep. Denny Heck (D-Wash.) is looking to create a central office to brief intelligence officials on climate change threats.

THIS WEEK IN ENERGY

Energy Storage Could Lead to Air Taxis, Low-Carbon Power Grid

By Bobby Magill

National laboratory scientists are envisioning a future in which electric airplanes ply the skies and large batteries enable full electrification of the U.S. transportation system, which will help the country decarbonize to address climate change.

New Texas Law Creates Advisory Panel to Boost Grid Protections

By Paul Stinson

Texas hopes to boost its defenses against cyberattacks by establishing an advisory body to coordinate security practices to protect the state's electrical grid.

Energy Pipeline Agency Seeks Incentives for Safe Operators (1)

By Sylvia Carignan

The federal authority overseeing oil and gas pipeline safety wants new ways to recognize safe operators in its ongoing effort to reduce costly pipeline incidents and accidents.

Energy Commission at Odds Over Who Among Them Is More Partisan

By Stephen Cunningham

Since day one, Neil Chatterjee has fended off criticism that he is too partisan to lead the politically independent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. But the real ideologue on the commission is Democrat Rich Glick, according to Chatterjee.

EPA Issues Guidelines Meant to Curb State Pipeline Blockades

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

The EPA issued guidelines governing how state regulators should vet water quality impacts of proposed projects within their borders -- a bid to rein in New York and other states that have used the authority to block pipelines and other energy projects.

GE, Duke Energy Look to Nuclear, Renewables to Address Climate

By Bobby Magill

Duke Energy and GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy are considering ways to pair nuclear power production with wind and solar energy to help decarbonize the electrical grid.

Michigan Approves Consumers Energy Plan to Retire Coal Plants

By Alex Ebert

Michigan regulators have approved Consumers Energy Co.'s plans to close a coal-fired plant and add more renewable energy to its portfolio.

Connecticut Set to Join in \$70 Billion Offshore Wind Expansion

By Christopher Martin

Connecticut is set to massively increase investment in offshore wind after the state Senate passed a bill to require utilities to buy as much as 2 gigawatts of the renewable energy source, equivalent to almost a third of the state's electricity needs.

Michigan Frees up 3.4 Million Farm Acres for Solar Development

By Alex Ebert

Solar developers and farmers are celebrating a Michigan agriculture policy shift that opens roughly 3.4 million acres of cropland to develop commercial solar arrays.

N.J. Denies Land-Use Permits for Williams Northeast Conduit (1)

By Ryan Collins

New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection denies permits without prejudice to future resubmission by Williams's Transco unit, according to a statement sent late Wednesday.

THIS WEEK'S INSIGHTS

INSIGHT: An Innovative Path to Solving Water Infrastructure Issues

Within the past few years, several high-profile catastrophes have focused the nation's attention on the widespread, chronic underinvestment in the infrastructure responsible for delivering life-sustaining services to Americans each and every day.

INSIGHT: We Must Save Our World From Drowning in Plastic

Without immediate action, our world's oceans will have more plastic in them than fish (by weight) by 2050. This leads to a very important question: Can we change this, and protect our oceans and our world from plastic pollution in time. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, president of the U.N. General Assembly writes that the solutions are there, from using stainless steel cutlery (and hiring the accompanying necessary dishwashers) in our cafeterias to replacing garbage bags with biodegradable options to offering bamboo forks and knives for take-out. It is possible to let go of plastic.

INSIGHT: Why Wait? The Costs of Inaction on Climate Adaptation

New potential for bipartisan congressional action to address climate impacts could translate to better planning and preparedness in communities, states, and federal agencies. The opportunity is evident in the energy of Green New Deal discussions and establishment of a House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Meanwhile, following record-setting years of disaster losses, we see greater urgency and shifting public opinion across political affiliations toward accepting the validity of climate change. With communities, human lives, and economic opportunity at stake, a broader, more concerted effort is needed, according to Kristiane Huber, the resilience fellow at the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

INSIGHT: Ten Ways Machine Learning Will Transform the Practice of Law

Law firms are increasingly using machine learning and artificial intelligence, which have become standard in document review. Dorsey & Whitney's Caroline Sweeney says any firm that wants to stay competitive should get on board now and gives examples for use and best practices.

INSIGHT: Transforming Your Legal Department Into a High-Performing Organization

Whether you're a new general counsel with a legal department in need of significant change, or seeking to reinvigorate your department's performance, Manatt attorneys offer a disciplined change management approach aimed to

help transform your department into a high-performing, efficient and respected organization.

INSIGHT: Fixed Terms for Supreme Court Justices Checks Constitutionality Boxes

Many say the Supreme Court has become too political, but reform proposals often raise constitutionality questions. Tyler Cooper of the nonprofit Fix the Court says a solution proposed by some scholars, allowing justices to remain federal jurists after a statutorily fixed term, may satisfy constitutional concerns.

Bloomberg Environment

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